

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07623 270725Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7623

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PK  
SUBJECT: COURT CASE LODGED AGAINST BHUTTO

1. A WRIT PETITION THAT FORMER PM BHUTTO BE TRIED FOR "THE DISMEMBERMENT OF PAKISTAN" WAS FILED IN PESHAWAR HIGH COURT ON JULY 25. THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS SCHEDULED A PRELIMINARY HEARING ON THE CASE - BROUGHT BY UOUSAF LODI, A FRONTIER PUBLISHER AND GADFLY - FOR JULY 27. INVESTIGATIONS INTO REPORTED MALPRACTICES OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT CONTINUE. THE JULY 26 ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS REPORTS THAT A PROBE HAS BEEN INITIATED AGAINST FORMER FRONTIER CHIEF MINISTER NASRULLAH KHAN KHATTAK ON THE CHARGE HE REMOVED \$350 THOUSAND WORTH OF FURNISHINGS FROM HIS  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 07623 270725Z

OFFICIAL RESIDENCE IN PESHAWAR. SAME PAPERS REPORT THAT INVESTIGATION INTO THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM HAS SO FAR REVEALED OVER TEN MILLION RUPEES (ONE MILLION DOLLARS) MISAPPROPRIATED.

2. ALTHOUGH THE PESHAWAR COURT CASE AGAINST BHUTTO COULD HAVE BEEN INITIATED WITHOUT MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION APPROVAL, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE IN FACE OF MLA OBJECTIONS. LEGAL PROC-

EEDINGS PRE USUALLY LENGTHY IN PAKISTAN AND IT IS UNLIKELY THE PESHAWAR CASE AGAINST BHUTTO, IF THE CHIEF JUSTICE LETS IT GO TO TRIKT, WILL BE RESOLVED SOON. HOWEVER THE CASE AND THE DAILY REVELATIONS OF NEW INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORT SPECULATION THAT VARIOUS FACTIONS IN THE MLA BELIEVE IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON BHUTTO. THOSE WHO WANT BHUTTO REMOVED FROM THE POLITICAL AREAN MAY SEE INEXORABLE PRESSURE BUILDING WHICH WILL LEAD TO HIS ARREST BEFORE ELECTIONS. OTHERS WHO WANT HIM TO CONTEST, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING ZIA, MAY BELIEVE THAT FACED WITH VARIOUS COURT CASES AND OTHER PRESSURES, BTMTTO MAY DECIDE HE HAS TO RUN IN THE HOPE OF DOING WELL ENOUGH TO GAIN SOME POLITICAL PROTECTION FROM FURTHER HARASSMENT.

3. WHATEVER THE MOTIVES OF THOSE INVOLVED, THERE ARE ENOUGH PEOPLE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH A STAKE IN FOCUSING THE ANTI-CORRUPTION SPOTLIGHT ON THE PPP GOVT THAT WE FULLY EXPECT THE INQUIRIES AND THE ATTENDANT PUBLICITY TO CONTINUE. THE DANGER IN THIS COURSE IS THAT RATHER THAN ENCOURAGE A "COOLING-OFF" PERIOD AS DESIRED BY ZIA, THE CLAIMS AND COUNTER-CLAIMS EMANATING FROM THE INVESTIGATIONS MAY ONLY SERVE TO EXACERBATE THE POLITICAL SITUATION. THIS COULD NOT ONLY INCREASE THREATS TO INTERNAL SECURITY BUT ALSO ULTIMATELY THREATEN ZIA'S PLAN TO HOLD FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER. HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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